

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims have been presented whether or not an amendment has been made.

1. (Currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:
providing a set of predetermined function definitions which are different; and
definitions;

preparing a project definition, said project definition including:

a plurality of function portions which each correspond to one of said function definitions in said set, and which each define at least one input port and at least one output port that are functionally related according to the corresponding function definition;

a further portion which includes a source portion identifying a data source and defining an output port through which data from the data source can be produced, and which includes a destination portion identifying a data destination and defining an input port through which data can be supplied to the data destination; and

binding information which includes binding portions that each associate a respective said input port with one of said output ports;

(A)
wherein one of said function definitions identifies a separate application program, wherein one of said function portions which corresponds to said one function definition identifies a command for said application program, and wherein wherein execution of said one function portion causes execution of said command by said application program in a manner which affects data present in said one function portion. portion, and wherein said data in said one function portion is image data; and

selecting as said application program an image processing program.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, including the steps of concurrently executing said project definition and an instance of said application program.

4. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program which recognizes a set of predetermined function definitions ~~that are different~~, said program being operable when executed to facilitate preparation of a project definition which includes:

a plurality of function portions which each correspond to one of said function definitions in said set, and which each define at least one input port and at least one output port that are functionally related according to the corresponding function definition;

a further portion which includes a source portion identifying a data source and defining an output port through which data from the data source can be produced, and which includes a destination portion identifying a data destination and defining an input port through which data can be supplied to the data destination; and

binding information which includes binding portions that each associate a respective said input port with one of said output ports;

wherein one of said function definitions identifies a separate application program, wherein one of said function portions which corresponds to said one function definition identifies a command for said application program, ~~and wherein~~ wherein execution of said one function portion causes execution of said command by said application program in a manner which affects data present in said one function portion. portion, and wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate preparation of said project definition to use image data as said data in said one function portion, and to use an image processing program as said application program.

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5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium according to ~~Claim 5~~ Claim 4, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate concurrent execution of said project definition and an instance of said application program.

7. (Original) A method, comprising the steps of:
providing a set of predetermined function definitions which are different;
modifying said set to include at least one custom function definition which is
functionally different from each of said predetermined function definitions; and
preparing a project definition, said project definition including:
a plurality of function portions which each correspond to one of said function
definitions in said modified set, and which each define at least one input port and at least one
output port that are functionally related according to the corresponding function definition
from said modified set;
a further portion which includes a source portion identifying a data source and
defining an output port through which data from the data source can be produced, and which
includes a destination portion identifying a data destination and defining an input port
through which data can be supplied to the data destination; and
binding information which includes binding portions that each associate a
respective said input port with one of said output ports.

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8. (Original) A method according to Claim 7, wherein said modifying step
includes the step of creating said custom function definition by modifying one of said
predetermined function definitions.

9. (Original) A method according to Claim 8, wherein said modifying step
includes the step of replacing in said set said one predetermined function definition with said
custom function definition.

10. (Original) A method according to Claim 8, wherein said modifying step
includes the step of including in said set each of said custom function definition and said one
predetermined function definition.

11. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 8, wherein said modifying step includes the steps of:

modifying source code for said one predetermined function definition in a development environment;

compiling the modified source code in said development environment to obtain an object code file; and

Including including said object code file in said set.

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12. (Original) A method according to Claim 11, including the step of using as said development environment an off-line development environment.

13. (Original) A method according to Claim 11, including the step of using VisualBasic (VB) as said development environment.

14. (Original) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program which recognizes a set of predetermined function definitions that are different, said program being operable when executed to facilitate:

modification of said set to include at least one custom function definition which is functionally different from each of said predetermined function definitions; and

preparation of a project definition, said project definition including:

a plurality of function portions which each correspond to one of said function definitions in said modified set, and which each define at least one input port and at least one output port that are functionally related according to the corresponding function definition from said modified set;

a further portion which includes a source portion identifying a data source and defining an output port through which data from the data source can be produced, and which includes a destination portion identifying a data destination and defining an input port through which data can be supplied to the data destination; and

binding information which includes binding portions that each associate a respective said input port with one of said output ports.

Q1 15. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 14, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate said modification of said set in a manner which includes creation of said custom function definition through modification of one of said predetermined function definitions.

16. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 14, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate said modification of said set in a manner which includes replacement in said set of said one predetermined function definition with said custom function definition.

17. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 14, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate said modification of said set in a manner which includes addition to said set of said custom function definition, so that said set includes each of said custom function definition and said one predetermined function definition.

18. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 14, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate said modification of said set in a manner which includes:

modification of source code for said one predetermined function definition in a development environment;

compilation of the modified source code in said development environment so as to obtain an object code file; and

inclusion of said object code file in said set.

19. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 14, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate said modification of said set by accepting said custom function definition in a form which includes an object code file prepared in a development environment separate from said program by modification and compilation of source code for said one predetermined function definition.

20. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 19, wherein said program is operable when executed to use as said development environment VisualBasic (VB).

21. (New) A method according to Claim 1, wherein execution of said command by said image processing program conforms said image data to a generally similar appearance.

22. (New) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 4, wherein execution of said command by said image processing program conforms said image data to a generally similar appearance.